

Mayhall. I wish continued success to Mrs. Mayhall and the COP program.

LET'S BE TRULY COMPASSIONATE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about a very important bill that I just re-introduced, the Visitors Interested in Strengthening America (VISA) Act of 2009 (H.R. 937). The bill would grant humanitarian visa waivers to children and their parents coming across the border for regular medical appointments, or for educational or cultural events.

In the past, the Port Directors at the border had the authority to grant humanitarian visa waivers to certain children and their accompanying parent. Now, children who come without a visa must be turned away. The fee to enter into the United States for 24 hours is an insurmountable amount of money for these poor children and their families. These children pose no threat to our national security. They are merely trying to receive medical treatment or to enjoy a school field trip to one of our nation's numerous tourist attractions.

This legislation does not affect the number of legal or illegal immigrants living in the United States—the children and accompanying adults visit for one day and then return to their homes. It gives Port Directors the authority to use their discretion, and issue waivers to children that pose no security threat to our country.

This is common sense legislation that allows us to cultivate relations with our Mexican neighbors, while keeping those who would do us harm out of our country. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this critical legislation, by co-sponsoring the VISA Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, February 11, 2009, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Con. Res. 47, H. Res. 154, and H.R. 448.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 60, on passing H. Con. Res. 47, Providing for an adjournment or recess of the two Houses, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 61, on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 154, Honoring JOHN D. DINGELL for holding the record as the longest serving member of the House of Representatives, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 62, on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 448, the Elder Abuse Victims Act, I would have voted "aye."

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise today in support of this resolution recognizing National Engineers Week and the important contributions to society made by engineers. A range of activities and programs highlighting Engineers Week will be taking place across the country. Communities, schools, and museums will host events to excite young people about engineering by helping them see the role this discipline plays in the world around them.

This resolution and National Engineers Week come at a fitting time. We are in a dire economic situation, in part because of a failure to sufficiently support science and engineering in the past. Research and development will be the foundation for the discoveries that will fuel our economic recovery and sustain our long term economic growth. Engineering is often the critical bridge between the basic science and the productive innovation or the marketable product. It is entirely proper that we acknowledge this important field at this critical time.

National Engineers Week is the most visible event in an ongoing, year-round effort by the National Engineers Week Foundation to support and encourage interest in engineering and technology. As Congress supports the excellent programming of National Engineers week, it should follow the Foundation's lead in making a commitment to science, research, engineering, and education. Congress should work to ensure that all individuals who choose to pursue an education in engineering and related fields have the opportunity to do so. And Congress should fully fund the America COMPETES Act and make a sustained investment in our national innovation infrastructure.

This resolution recognizes the value of National Engineers Week and engineering-related disciplines generally. I am delighted to support it.

CELEBRATING FILIPINO AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about a resolution that I have re-introduced along with Congressmen BILBRAY, HONDA, ISSA, and BOBBY SCOTT, my colleagues in the U.S.-Philippines Friendship Caucus (H. Res. 155). This resolution recognizes Filipino American Heritage Month and celebrates the heritage and culture of Filipino Americans and their immense contributions to our nation.

The Filipino American National Historical Society established Filipino American History Month in 1988 but I was surprised to learn that the House of Representatives has never recognized this month, which is long overdue!

We are pleased to honor the Filipino American community and pay tribute to the extraordinary contributions that Filipinos make to this nation. Filipino Americans have been part of the American experience, confronting many difficult challenges while being resolute and steadfast in their cultural heritage.

We honor Filipino Americans, from farm workers to nurses and doctors to the brave and courageous soldiers who fought shoulder-to-shoulder with American servicemen. This country is indebted to the Filipino veterans of World War II for their extraordinary sacrifices. We promise that we will not give up. Equity and recognition for World War II Veterans is a moral imperative.

I invite my colleagues to join with me in honoring the history, culture, and contribution of Filipino Americans in the United States by supporting this important resolution.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Center United Methodist Church was founded in 1858 with 17 members convening at the Pleasant Site School in Cambridge, and

Whereas, originally called the Harmony Methodist Episcopal Church, the congregation grew quickly to more than 200 members and in 1869, prompting the congregation to build its structure on the site where it currently stands, and

Whereas, the Center United Methodist Church operated continuously for 150 years under various names, continuously growing and expanding its congregation and its building to better accommodate its service to the community. The church has been an active community presence, initiating and contributing to numerous religious, community, and international; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Center United Methodist Church for 150 years of dedicated service to the practice of the Christian faith and to the good works, both local and international, that have given the congregation a wonderful reputation and a sense of pride.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MERCED ASSEMBLY CENTER

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 129, recognizing the historical significance of the Merced Assembly Center to the Nation and the importance of establishing an appropriate memorial at that site to serve as a place for remembering the hardships endured by Japanese-Americans, so that the United States remains vigilant in protecting our Nation's core